



Statement of Senator Dianne Feinstein on a State Health Goal for Perchlorate in
California's Drinking Water Supplies
March 11, 2004

Washington, DC – *The State of California today set a public health goal for the level of a rocket fuel propellant, perchlorate, in drinking water supplies. The goal is set at 6 parts of perchlorate per billion parts of water. The following is a statement from Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.):*

"I, for one, am very pleased that the State has moved ahead of the federal government in setting a perchlorate public health goal. This is a critical first step toward protecting the State's drinking water supply from contamination.

I recognize that there are different views on what the goal should be, however, it is important that the best science be used in the formulation of a standard. More work needs to be done in this area to assess sources of exposure and food contamination.

We know that the scope of the contamination is enormous -- it has been reported that perchlorate has now entered the food chain and is turning up in different areas of the United States in produce and dairy products. This is why it is so important that the State move aggressively to stem the problem and begin the cleanup of perchlorate-contaminated sites throughout California.

It is also imperative that the Department of Defense accept its responsibility for its role in perchlorate contamination. The Department thus far has done nothing to address the problem, and its reluctance to do so is stunning, especially in light of the potential that perchlorate could produce thyroid dysfunction in pregnant women and newborns.

The Department should step forward and fund efforts to clean up drinking water supplies and prevent any further spills into the environment.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will work to ensure that the Defense Department Appropriations bill contains funding for clean up of contaminated Defense Department sites.

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